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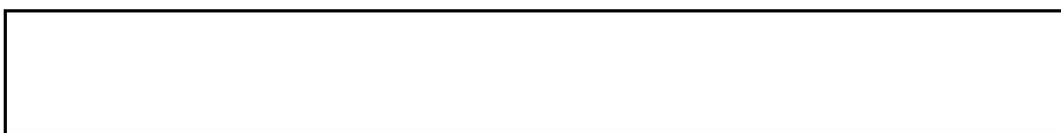
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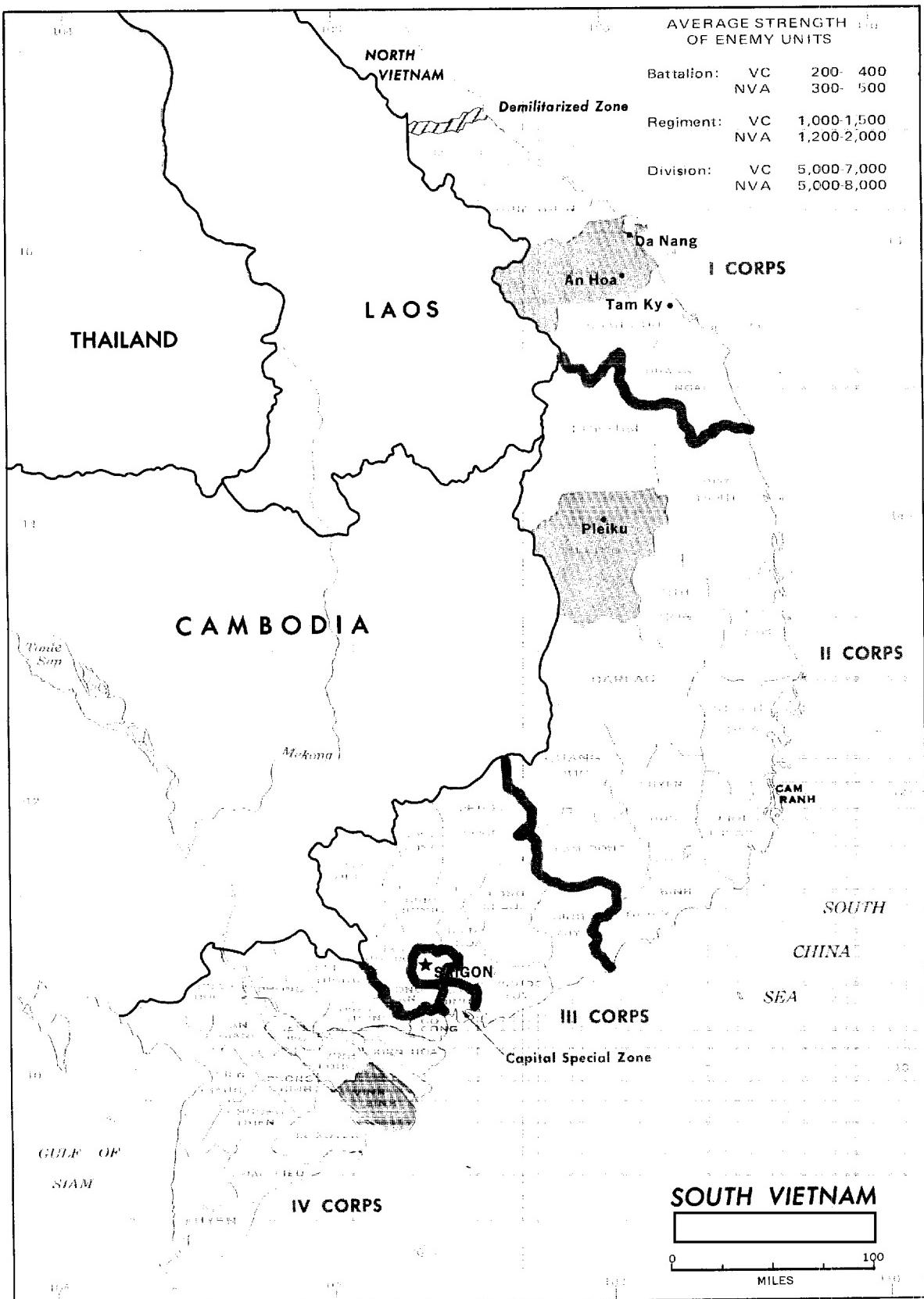


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[Vietnam: North Vietnamese talks with Kosygin and company on Sunday seem to have covered a wider range of topics than the earlier Sino-Vietnamese discussions.

That the Paris conference and economic aid were among the subjects discussed is indicated by the presence of Le Duc Tho, Xuan Thuy, and Le Thanh Nghi, Hanoi's foreign aid expert. None of these took part in the talks with Chou En-lai.

The Chinese Communists have sent another delegation to North Vietnam. This one, headed by Vice Premier and politburo member Li Hsien-nien, is to attend Ho's funeral tomorrow on behalf of the Peking government. Premier Chou En-lai's brief trip to Hanoi last week is now being billed by the Chinese as a condolence call by a "party delegation."

* * * *

Communist military action during the first day of the enemy's three-day standdown was light and widely scattered.

The most significant action was an hour-long enemy attack against a US Marine field position some four miles northeast of An Hoa in Quang Nam Province. Two Americans were killed and ten wounded in the engagement.

Other incidents during the opening hours of the truce included terrorist attacks against a train northwest of Da Nang and against a bus near Tam Ky. Command-detonated mines were employed in both attacks, which accounted for ten civilians killed and 15 wounded. In the delta province of Vinh Binh, Viet Cong forces attacked two South Vietnamese units, killing 12 and wounding four.]

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Montagnards living in the Pleiku area are apprehensive about the eventual withdrawal of US troops from the central highlands.

Although no plans for withdrawal from the area have been announced, some Montagnards are looking ahead to the day when the US presence is withdrawn and they must again rely on the ethnic Vietnamese for protection. The Montagnards have traditionally been accustomed to being treated with contempt by the Vietnamese despite repeated government attempts to correct this. Many Montagnards reportedly say they would prefer to return to their homes in insecure areas rather than rely on the protection of South Vietnamese troops.

Viet Cong propagandists have been reminding Montagnard and Vietnamese alike that they will be in the province long after the Americans have departed and will punish those who continue to ignore warnings to stop aiding US forces.

Another concern of the Pleiku city population, which includes many ethnic Vietnamese, is economic. US forces in the area employ thousands of local personnel and convert substantial funds into South Vietnamese currency each month. Accordingly, the greatest fear of many Pleiku city people is that they will lose their livelihood and be unable to find any other way to earn a living in Pleiku.

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Arms Control: There is considerable pressure developing to have the UN General Assembly adopt a resolution pertaining to chemical and biological warfare (CBW).

The most prominent among the CBW initiatives for General Assembly resolutions under discussion at the Geneva disarmament talks is a Swedish draft. This cites "a customary rule of international law" prohibiting CBW usage, including tear gas and other nonlethal substances, in international wars. Despite strong US opposition, the draft has gained substantial support from among the 25 participants at Geneva. It will be presented as a proposed resolution at the General Assembly, with the comment that it covers all of the recommendations contained in the recent report of experts appointed by Secretary General Thant.

The Canadian delegation has made little headway at Geneva with a draft which covers much of the same ground as the Swedish one. The Canadian text commends a draft convention submitted recently by the British which deals only with biological warfare. Most of the Geneva participants, however, are disturbed by any implication that chemical weapons might be separated from biological ones for arms control purposes. Ottawa's draft merely "notes" Thant's recommendations, asking that his report serve as the basis for further consideration of CBW questions in Geneva. Both the Canadian and British proposals will probably be aired at the General Assembly.

Moscow continues to oppose these drafts on CBW, as it opposes any initiative which would not reinforce the applicability of the 1925 Geneva Protocol. It favors a more comprehensive proposal to control the production of such weaponry. A Soviet diplomat in Geneva has said that a new initiative is under active consideration in Moscow. This suggests that the USSR may introduce its own resolution at the General Assembly, which opens on 16 September. The USSR has previously said that a CBW resolution should be drafted in New York, rather than Geneva.

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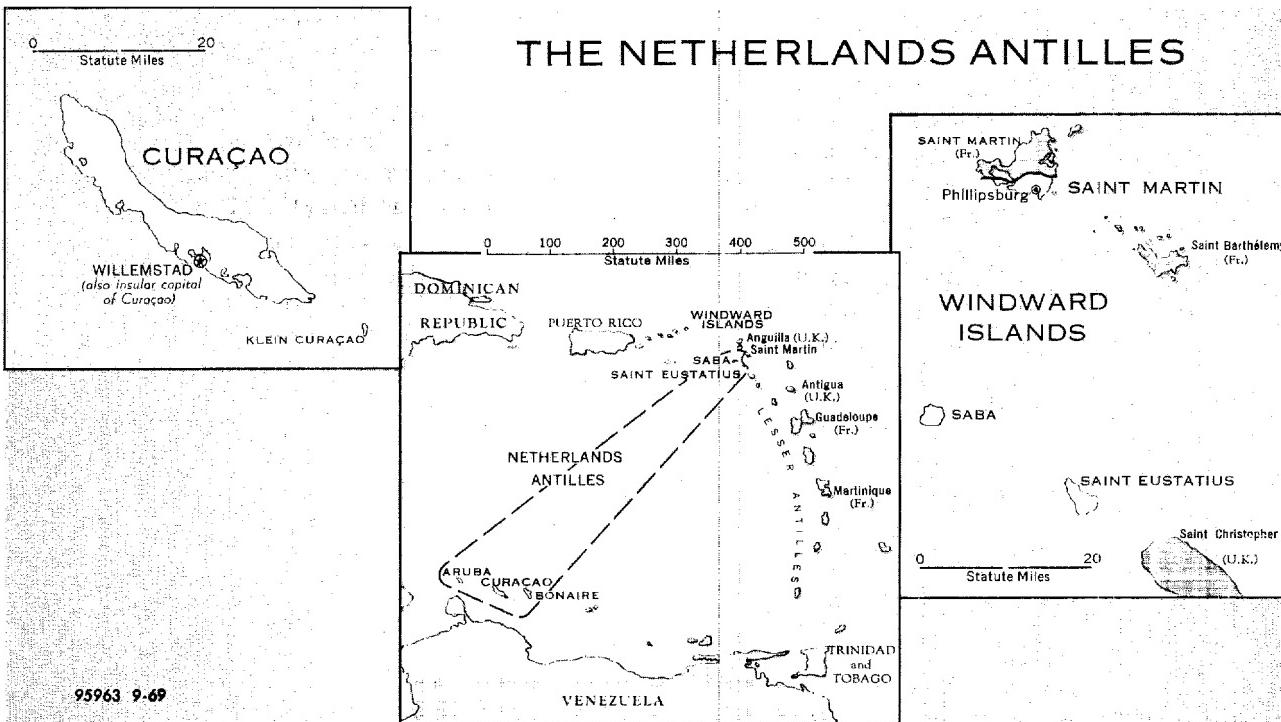
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NOTE

Netherlands Antilles: The Democratic Party must find a coalition partner after losing its majority on the Legislative Council in the elections last week. The party, which has ruled for 15 years, now holds only 11 of the 22 seats. The Workers' Front, a leftist party that was formed after the serious riots in Curacao last May, won at least three seats. The Front's strong showing probably reflects a growing discontent in the labor movement over the high rate of unemployment and the lack of adequate government social welfare programs.

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